

CLAIMS

1. A grain immersion method comprising: a step of storing grains for water absorption and water within a pressure-resistant container; a step of reducing the pressure in the pressure-resistant
5 container; and a step of releasing the reduced pressure.

2. The grain immersion method according to Claim 1,
characterized in that the step of releasing the reduced pressure
is a step of abruptly restoring the normal pressure.

10

3. The grain immersion method according to Claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that the pressure reduction in the step of reducing
the pressure in the pressure-resistant container is to maintain
a degree of vacuum at about 10^{-4} Torr at a certain period.

15

4. A grain immersion apparatus comprising: a
pressure-resistant container including: a supply port for the
grains and water, which is either common or separate, and a
connecting port for a vacuum pump on the upper portion; and a
20 discharge port for the grains after having immersed on the lower
portion.

5. The grain immersion apparatus according to Claim 4,
characterized in that the pressure-resistant container further
25 comprises a reduced pressure releasing port on the upper portion
thereof.

6. The grain immersion apparatus according to Claim 4 or 5,
characterized in that the vacuum pump has a capability of
maintaining a degree of vacuum of 10^{-5} to 10^{-4} Torr in a state of
being connected to the pressure-resistant container.

5